



HOLIDAY DECORATIONS

IN PLACES OF WORSHIP

Please share this information with all those who may be decorating your place of worship for the coming holiday season. Members of the Seattle Fire Department may stop by your place of worship in the coming weeks to inspect for fire hazards. The purpose of the inspection is to help make sure that those who worship together will enjoy a fire safe holiday.

Requirements for Indoor Greenery

Fresh cut trees, garlands and wreaths displayed indoors must be fire retardant. For the entire period that greenery is on display, it must be able to pass a Fire Department *fire retardant test*.

To treat greenery yourself:

- Only use products that carry the seal of the California State Fire Marshal's Office or Underwriter's Laboratory. They must be specific for the type of greenery in use.
- Apply the product exactly as instructed on the label. Make sure you put enough on or it may not work. Failure to apply a product correctly may result in greenery losing its fire retardant properties as it dries out over time.
- Products for treatment of cut evergreens may be purchased at home stores, hardware stores, paint stores or stores that carry theatrical or decorative display materials.
- Homemade recipes for treatment of evergreens are not acceptable.



To have holiday greenery commercially treated:

Florists and Christmas tree sales lots may sell greenery that is treated and certified as fire retardant.

Artificial greenery

Purchase greenery that is certified as being "fire retardant" or "non-combustible".

Please note:

Greenery is naturally fire retardant when first cut. This is because of its high water content. The longer greenery is inside on display, the more it will dry out. Be sure to apply fire retardant treatments exactly as specified to help ensure that greenery can safely remain on display throughout the holiday season.

If you have questions, please contact the Seattle Fire Department at (206) 386-1450 during weekday business hours.



Checklist For Decorations

Make sure you can mark "yes" to all of these

- ☐ Decorations are clear of all exits and aiseways.
- ☐ Exit doors are unlocked whenever the building is occupied.
- ☐ Candles are only lit when someone is able to attend to them.
- ☐ Decorations placed next to lit candles are fire retardant.
- ☐ Only heavy-duty extension cords are used for holiday lighting, and they are not overloaded.
- ☐ Decorative lighting is turned off when the premises are unoccupied.
- ☐ Decorations do not obstruct sprinkler systems or access to fire extinguishers or fire alarm pull stations.
- ☐ Stairways and stairway landings are free from storage of any type.

